7/29/94

Mr. Robert Bates
204 E. Locust Dr.,
Blue Springs, MO 64104-2353

Dear Mr. Bates,

The information you requested is enclosed.

I do not know if you had given me your former roomates name if after all these years I'd remember any reports he filed when he was assigned to Dallas for that emergency situation but I do assure you there is no reason to question the integrity of most of the SAs who worked that case in the field. Each had a tiny part of the investigation and most of what was assigned to be investigated was not really relevant. And much of what should have been wasn't. I'm sure that individual parts of what was first reported seemed substantial and probative.

Some SAs made simple mistakes, but not many. Some had reason to believe better and other than what they reported, but most of them were some of the agents assigned to the Dallas office and quite a few at FBIHQ. As you will see in my books.

Do not get the impression that I am against the FBI as an agency. I regard it as a necessary one and in the past I worked with it on a then famous case, of Bloody Harlan. Harlan County, Ky. was bloody then, before your (1930s) time. The Department borrowed me from the Senate committee for which I then worked becasue of my knowledge of its investigatinn. The SA in charge of that detail and I became and remained friends and that detail was of a fine and exceptionally competent group of me.

Much of the critifcism of the Oliver Stone movie was because he announced that he would record their history for the people and tell them who killed their President, why and how. As a work of non-fiction is was fascinating fiction. He was not in a position to produce what he promised, a factual movie, and he really had no interest in doing that. He told the truth in telling the people that the official solution was not a solution at all but that was also true of what he said was true when it wasn't. So in terms of the crime itself, many people were misinformed.

That movie also served a valuable purpose in adding greatly to the pressure to disclose what was withheld.

If I believe what the FBI told me, it has not disclosed in what it sent under this law to the Archives anything I had not already gotten from it in a series of FOIA lawsuits. That included, aside from HQ main assassination and Oswald, Ruby Warren Commission files those of Dallas and New Orleans and those of those offices on Ruby, the Oswalds, George DeMuhrenschildt and a few others and many thousands of EBEA. It is based on my reading those 250,000 pages or so that I tell you there is no automatic basis for questioning the integrity of your former roomate. Please excuse my typing. I'm 81 and in impaired health. Thus my typing.

As Case Open indicates, it is but a fourth of what I did as I took Posner's case apart, bit by bit, based entirely on the official evidence.

Harold Weisberg

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg

I've just noticed that I did not respond to your questions about the number of shots and their direction.

I have never conjectured in those areas, not that I can recall in my thinking and not in anything I've written in the books because that would have inevitably deceived and misled the readers.

What may be difficult for you to believe is that the crime itself was not only never investigated- it was never intended to be. That unlikely couple of Katzenbach, who phoned his idea to Hoover, who immediately accepted it, is just this phrased in a different way but not meaning anything else. That was as soon as Katzenbach knew that Oswald had been killed and that there would be no trial. The burning of the original autopsy report and its replacement coincides with that knowledge, as I document in Post Mortem. The documentation of that de facto conspiracy between Katzenbach and Hoover is documented at the beginning of NEVER AGAIN! that I regret to say has not been postponed again until this coming March. Others were also involved, as that book shows.

There is no real doubt that at least the anterior neck wound was from the front. I go into that in the coming book and did in those that are published.

There is a prima facie case that if there was only one wound to the head it was likely from the front and was certainly by different ammo than any military rounds.

Sibert or O'Neill or both perceived that at the autopsy. Sibert phoned the Lab. He was effectively turned off on that, and I have this from him, from a suppresed official record, by the question instead of the answer Killian of the Lab gave him, did he know that a bullet had been found at the hospital.

That bullet was not possibly fired during the assassination. I believe it ws fired into a water tank. I know of no metal removed from it other than in the firing that was not removed in the Lab.

The place where the curbstone bullet impacted, as you have seen, was patched and I have an FBI record recoring that obvious fact. Yet Shaneyfelt had it dug up and the Lab subjected it to spectrographic analysis-that does not show all the components of an entire bullet or of its core. And when I field a FOIA lawsuit for the results of that testing that single piece of film suffered a mysterious disappearance. In court the FBI got away with saying that it had been told an an agent who had retired to Florida that it was probably disposed of to save space in the files! That one of all those made in spectrographic analysis- in fact the extent of which you pretty well know!

The only evidence is that the anterior neck wound was above the collar. You will see pictures in Post Mortem that show that neither the tie nor the collar was hit by any bullet. It was cuts and a slight nick on the tie caused by a nurse's scalpel during the emergency procedures.

As you will see in the books, I cited the sources of all the information I use and reproduce several hundred pages of it in facsimile. HW